

# "Born to Succeed!"



Dear Parents and Friends,

I am delighted to present to you the second edition of "Born to Succeed," a quarterly update on the work of the Mayor's Office for Young Children. This edition is exclusively dedicated to helping parents get their children registered for kindergarten and to fully understand all of the kindergarten options that are available.

Getting prepared for the first day of kindergarten is important for children, families, schools, community-based providers and the Mayor's Office for Young Children. For this reason, I am committed to ensuring a system is in place that will help all of Hartford's kindergarten children start school with enthusiasm and success. One step towards realizing this goal is to provide parents with the information needed to register early and to make the best decisions on behalf of their children.

Included in this newsletter are answers to questions brought to the attention of the Mayor's Office for Young Children. I hope that you will take the time to read through the newsletter so that in September we can celebrate a happy first day of school for our new kindergarten students!

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Perez  
Mayor

## Frequently Asked Questions by parents of children who will start Kindergarten in September 2006

### When and where do I register my child for Kindergarten?

Parents can register their children for kindergarten at the Hartford Public Schools (HPS) Central Registration Office; 960 Main Street located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The Central Registration Office can be reached at (860) 695-8400. The HPS main number is 695-8000.

Children will be registered to attend only one school and in accordance with the Hartford Public School Board policy, students must attend their district school (often referred to as "neighborhood" school) as determined by the address of where they live. All pre-registered kindergarten children will be assigned to their classrooms beginning in June and for those registering after the beginning of June, classroom assignments will continue until the first day of school.

### Why does it help parents and children to be registered early for kindergarten?

Parents who register their children for kindergarten early are more

likely to confirm a space for their child in their neighborhood school. While there is no deadline for regular registration, parents are encouraged to register their children as early as possible because they risk not finding space available in their district school if they wait too long. Each year, HPS begins its kindergarten registration process in February.

In addition, parents who register their children early will not have to deal with the frustrations of waiting in the very long lines that typically occur in September. Furthermore, by registering before June when the schools close for the summer break, parents are able to contact the school their child will attend in order to arrange a visit with their child prior to the first day of school. During the visit, it may be possible to tour the school, meet the principal, or see some of the kindergarten classroom activities in action.

## CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION

Also, each spring parents who register early will be able to attend the Open House held at the school their child will attend, to learn more about the kindergarten program such as the lunch schedule, whether school uniforms are required, the kindergarten curriculum and the daily schedule.

For these reasons, the Hartford Public Schools begin to register children for September kindergarten as early as February, approximately six months early. Parents interested in registering their child for kindergarten now may contact The Central Registration Office at (860) 695-8400 or at 960 Main Street on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.

### What information or documentation will I need to bring with me to register my child for kindergarten?

To register a child for any HPS school, parents must bring the following documents to the Central Registration Office:

- Long form of your child's Birth Certificate or Passport
- Social Security card (optional)
- Parent Photo I.D.
- One of the following proof of address documents that clearly show the parent or legal guardian's name:

- ✓ Lease or Mortgage
- ✓ Utility bill (gas, light, phone, or cable)
- Present proof of your child's last health physical which is not older than one year to September.

**NOTE:** All of the above mentioned documents must be submitted with the enrollment forms in order to complete the child's registration

### What paperwork will I be asked to complete at the time of my child's registration?

At the time of registration, enrollment forms and a **Home Language Survey** must be completed for all children new to the HPS. If the results of the Home Language Survey indicate a language other than English is spoken at home, parents will be informed of the available language program options for their child. Program options include:

- 1) **Bilingual/Bicultural Program**
- 2) **Mainstream Program** (all-English classroom)
- 3) **Mainstream classroom with ESL support**
- 4) **Dual Language Program (English/Spanish)**

Parents must complete a temporary placement form/letter indicating their choice of program. Final placement is determined after parents are informed of their child's formal testing results.



### What is the difference between a Dual Language and a Bilingual kindergarten classroom?

Both Dual Language and Bilingual kindergarten classrooms implement the same curriculum through the Kindergarten Success For All (SFA), Early Learning Program. Some of the differences between the Dual Language and Bilingual classrooms include overall program goals, language of instruction, integration of students and classroom teacher partnerships.

## DUAL LANGUAGE & BILINGUAL PROGRAMS

# TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN.....

**The Dual Language kindergarten classroom** integrates children whose primary language is Spanish with English speaking students for at least half of the instructional day, and provides content instruction and literacy in both languages. The Dual Language Program provides the same curriculum subjects offered to other HPS students but adds a second language throughout the student's schooling. The goals of the **Dual Language program** for all participating students are:

- High levels of proficiency in the first language and in a second language
- Academic achievement at or above grade level in both languages (English and Spanish)
- Positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors

In kindergarten, certain components of the Early Learning Program are implemented in both languages through a "Language of the Day" model. Others are implemented in the native language only. Students from both the English dominant classroom and the Spanish-dominant classrooms are grouped together during the "Language of the Day" components. Language of the Day means one day, instruc-

tion would be in English and the next day in Spanish, alternating each day. Students receive instruction from two teachers, one who instructs in English and one who instructs in Spanish.

**Dual Language kindergarten classrooms** are located at Betances, Burns, Dwight, M.D. Fox, McDonough, Moylan, Sanchez.

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**The Bilingual Kindergarten classroom** provides Spanish instruction in core academic subjects and English as a second language to further students' linguistic and academic progress. In Bilingual Programs, for the first 30 months both the native language and English is used for instruction. The native language is dropped after 30 months in the program, and instruction in the two languages does not continue beyond that point in time. The goals of the **Bilingual program** are to:

- Promote mastery of academic material
- Facilitate transition into English
- Full proficiency in spoken and written English

In kindergarten, the majority of the components of the Early Learning Program are implemented in the native language

(Spanish), and others are implemented in English. All children in the bilingual kindergarten classroom are Spanish dominant. Students receive instruction from one teacher who utilizes both languages of instruction at separate times during the day.

**Bilingual kindergarten classrooms** are located at Barnard Brown, Burr, Hooker, Kinsella Magnet, Parkville, Sanchez, West Middle, Wish (for Spanish dominant students)

**Other Bilingual Program information:** for schools that do not have sufficient numbers of students in kindergarten to have a self contained bilingual classroom, bilingual resource program services are provided. Students are placed in a mainstream (all English) kindergarten classroom, and receive some support services in English and the native language. These schools are: Dwight, M.D. Fox and Naylor (Bosnian support); Dwight (Albanian support); Batchelder, Kennelly, Milner, Webster (Spanish support); Kindergarten Spanish dominant students needing a full time bilingual program are offered transportation to a nearby school for either a bilingual program or dual language program).

### How do I know what district school (neighborhood-school) my child will attend kindergarten?

At the time of registration, HPS Central Registration will provide all families with a school district listing of the school names, addresses and contact numbers. For families with children currently enrolled in community-based preschool programs, this listing and kindergarten registration packets are available at these locations. ***Internet information is also available at [www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org).***

Because of the Hartford Public Schools centralized kindergarten registration system, parents are asked to register their child at Hartford Public Schools (HPS) Central Registration Office; 960 Main Street on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.



### How will I know that my child's registration is complete and all of the required information has been received?

Parents will know that their child's registration has been confirmed and is complete when they receive the "pink copy" of the completed registration form at the time of registration. However, if the parent applied for the Hartford Public Schools Magnet/Choice One program or

the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Magnet or Choice Program, parents will receive a confirmation letter directly from the HPS Magnet School Office or CREC.

### Will transportation be offered for my child to attend kindergarten?

Students, including kindergarteners, who live **more than one mile** from their district school according to the family's address qualify for transportation. A person from Central Registration will submit the Transportation Request to the Transportation Department (695-8547) at the time of registration.

- Transportation is also provided to special education students who qualify based on needs and determined by the HPS special education department.
- Transportation is not provided to students attending an alternate school as a result of a "Request for Transfer Due to Special Circumstances".

### What is a Request for Transfer Due to Special Circumstances?

The **Special permission** process has been replaced with a

form and procedure called **"Request for Transfer Due to Special Circumstances"**.

Parents must complete this request for their child to attend another school other than their district school only for the following specific "special circumstances"

- Student Safety,
- Emergency Placements,
- Child Care Arrangements

The special circumstances form is available through the Hartford Public Schools Central Registration Department, 960 Main Street on the 5th Floor, at (860) 695-8400. The Hartford Public Schools main number is 695-8000. Completed forms must be returned to the same department. Requests for this procedure can be made at any time throughout the year.

### As a Hartford resident, in addition to my child attending his/her neighborhood school, what other kindergarten options are available for my child?

The following other options are available for you to pursue for your child:

#### **Interdistrict Magnet Schools:**

These schools are designed to voluntarily reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. They seek to attract students from various towns by offering a special, high quality curriculum.



In Hartford, there are Interdistrict Magnet schools administered by the **Hartford Public Schools** or the **Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)**, each with their own registration, eligibility criteria and lottery process. In order to attend, applications must be submitted by the designated due dates and then for accepted children, letters of confirmation will be mailed to parents.

**CREC Interdistrict Magnet Schools** offering kindergarten classrooms to Hartford children include:

**Montessori Magnet School** at The Learning Corridor, 1460 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106. Connecticut's first and only interdistrict Montessori public magnet school for students ages 3-12. Enrollment applications are due for children who will be three years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup> by the end of March for an April lottery. For additional information, call (860) 236-2899 or at [www.crec.org/uhms](http://www.crec.org/uhms)

tional information, call (860) 757-6100 or visit the website at [www.crec.org/montessori](http://www.crec.org/montessori)

**University of Hartford Magnet School** located on the University of Hartford campus at 196 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. This school uses Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences for students preschool through grade 5. Enrollment applications are due in early February for a late February lottery. For additional information call (860) 236-2899 or at [www.crec.org/uhms](http://www.crec.org/uhms)

**Hartford Public Schools Host Interdistrict Magnet Schools:** These are selected Hartford Public Schools that have been established by the State Department of Education and the Hartford Board of Education, and made available to students from Hartford and the Greater Hartford region. The schools have their own special curricular theme and are dedicated to academic excellence and student and staff diversity. Each core program is designed to meet the highest state and national standards for curriculum, instruction and student achievement.



When fully implemented, at least 30% of the students attending HPS Magnet Schools will come from suburban school districts, with the remaining 70% composed of students residing in Hartford. There is no tuition cost for parents.

**The following represent Hartford Public Schools Host Interdistrict Magnet Schools that offer Kindergarten:**

<b>MAGNET SCHOOL NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>Annie Fisher Magnet School of Multiple Intelligences</b>	280 Plainfield Street	(860) 695-3500
<b>Breakthrough Magnet School</b>	121 Cornwall Street	(860) 695-5700
<b>Kinsella Magnet School of the Arts</b>	65 Van Block Avenue	(860) 695-4140
<b>Mary Hooker Environmental Studies Magnet School</b>	200 Sherbrooke Avenue	(860) 695-3760
<b>Noah Webster Microsociety Magnet</b>	61 Whitney Street	(860) 695-5380
<b>Simpson-Waverly Classical Magnet</b>	55 Waverly Street	(860) 695-5160

Parents applying for HPS Magnet Schools can choose up to three schools on the application form which is typically due in February for a March lottery drawing. If the child does not get accepted in any of the schools, the student is expected to attend his/her neighborhood school according to the family's residence. For additional information, contact the Hartford Office of Interdistrict Magnet Schools & HPS Choice One Programs located at 960 Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor or

(860) 695-8839 or [www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org)

**Choice Program administered by the Capitol Region Education Council:**

This free program, previously known as Project Concern, allows urban students to attend public schools in nearby suburban towns and suburban students to attend public schools in a nearby urban center. The intent of this program is to improve academic achievement, reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation, and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. Enrollments are offered by school districts on a space-available basis in grades K-12. For more information, visit the CREC website at [www.crec.org/choice](http://www.crec.org/choice) or

contact the Open Choice Office at 34 Sequassen Street, Hartford, CT. 06106 or (860) 524-4017.

**Hartford Public Schools Choice One Program:**

These schools are Hartford public schools available only to students who live in Hartford. Interested parents must submit an application which is typically due in February for a March lottery. Up to three schools can be selected on the application form. If the child does not get accepted in any of the schools, the student is expected to attend his/her neighborhood school according to the family's residence. For additional information, contact the Hartford Office of Interdistrict Magnet Schools & HPS Choice One Programs located at 960 Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor or (860) 695-8839

or [www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org)

(See listing on page 7)

**Charter Schools:**

These schools are authorized by the State Board of Education to provide educational programs managed by a governing board comprised of teachers and parents of the students enrolled. A range of educational programs are offered

with small class sizes and enhanced teacher-parent communication. In Hartford, there is one Charter School: **Jumoke Academy** located at 250 Blue Hills Avenue - (860) 527-0525.

**What can I expect from my child's Hartford Public School kindergarten program?**

The Hartford Public Schools kindergarten program is a scientifically based research program endorsed by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal guidelines and produced by the Success for All Foundation. In addition, it is aligned to the State Department of Education guidelines and includes a focus on beginning reading skills, number concepts, science and social studies. The Early Learning~ Kinder Corner program is an in-depth compilation of the six components of a literacy based reading program consisting of decoding, comprehension, phonological awareness, writing, oral language and phonics.

All kindergartens operate as full day programs running the length of the regular school day and school year. The average class size is 23 children with one teacher.

**Each of the following Choice One Schools offer kindergarten and has a specialized theme as noted below:**

<b>CHOICE ONE SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Choice One Program</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>Betances Elementary School</b>	Dual Language Program	(860) 695-2840
<b>Burns Elementary School</b>	Excellence Through Science, Math & Technology	(860) 695-2980
<b>Burr Elementary School</b>	Strong Traditional Academics for Responsible Students	(860) 695-3080
<b>Clark Elementary School</b>	Technology Writing	(860) 695-3240
<b>Dwight Elementary School</b>	Global Cooperative Society	(860) 695-3400
<b>M. L. King Elementary School</b>	School of Academic Excellence	(860) 695-3980
<b>McDonough Elementary School</b>	International Studies	(860) 695-4260
<b>M. D. Fox Elementary School</b>	Dual Language Program	(860) 695-3600
<b>Moylan Elementary School</b>	Dual Language Program	(860) 695-4500
<b>Naylor Elementary School</b>	Building Leaders Through Civics and Technology	(860) 695-4620
<b>Sanchez Elementary School</b>	Dual Language Program	(860) 695-4940
<b>Twain Elementary School</b>	Literature & Technology with a Mark Twain Flair	(860) 695-5280
<b>Wish Elementary School</b>	Museum School	(860) 695-5600

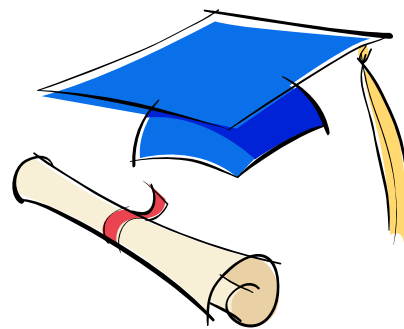
All families are encouraged to participate in their child's education from K-12. However, HPS understands that the participation level and volunteer level is a personal choice for each family.

As kindergarten children prepare for school, a healthy breakfast, plenty of sleep, regular bed time and set home routines benefit children on a daily basis. In addition, for the first day of school, families may want to discuss what the kindergarten experience may have in store for their child such as- a full

day of school, lunch in a school cafeteria, meeting new children and new teachers, learning a new building and having lunch and recess with many older children, which may be for the first time. School routines such as lunch times, recess and special subject schedules are determined by the school administration.

The First day of school is very exciting for staff, students and families. Activities are determined and planned well in advance by the school's "First Day" committee and the school principal.

Notices are included in the local newspapers, on local radio stations and on the local cable access channel. School notices are also sent home to all pre-registered students and families describing the specifics in more detail.



## HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIRECTORY

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
BARNARD BROWN	1304 Main Street	695-2600
BATCHELDER	757 New Britain Avenue	695-2720
BETANCES	42 Charter Oak Avenue	695-2840
BREAKTHROUGH MAGNET	121 Cornwall Street	695-5700
BURNS	195 Putnam Street	695-2980
BURR	400 Wethersfield Avenue	695-3080
CLARK	75 Clark Street	695-3240
DWIGHT	585 Wethersfield Avenue	695-3400
M.D. FOX	470 Maple Avenue	695-3600
ANNIE FISHER MAGNET	280 Plainfield Street	695-3500
HOOKE	200 Sherbrooke Avenue	695-3760
KENNELLY	180 White Street	695-3860
M.L. KING	25 Ridgefield Street	695-3980
KINSELLA	65 Van Block Avenue	695-4140
MCDONOUGH	111 Hillside Avenue	695-4260
MILNER	104 Vine Street	695-4380
MOYLAN	101 Catherine Street	695-4500
NAYLOR	639 Franklin Avenue	695-4620
PARKVILLE	1755 Park Street	695-4720
RAWSON	260 Holcomb Street	695-4840
SANCHEZ	176 Babcock Street	695-4940
SAND	1750 Main Street	695-5040
SIMPSON-WAVERLY	55 Waverly Street	695-5160
MARK TWAIN	395 Lyme Street	695-5280
NOAH WEBSTER	5 Cone Street	695-5380
WEST MIDDLE	927 Asylum Avenue	695-5480
WISH	350 Barbour Street	695-5600



Office of the Mayor  
City of Hartford  
550 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

Phone: (860) 543-8528  
Fax: (860) 722-6036  
Website: [www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov)



Eddie A. Perez  
Mayor